

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that the personal agent 11 of Stevens may be equipped with a bar code scanner (col. 6, lines 17-19) which communicates directly with a store computer or host (col. 6, lines 29-30). Also the professional unit 9, 101 could likewise be equipped with a bar code scanner (col. 18, lines 5-7) which communicates directly with a store computer or host 98 (col. 17, lines 38-40). In addition, the personal agent 11 and the professional unit 9 can exchange data with each other (col. 7, lines 51-53).

However, Stevens does not disclose that data read by the personal agent (or first reader) is communicated to the host via the professional unit (or second reader).

Applicants' second reader acts to "receive" the data from the first reader and then to "forward" the received data to the host. Stevens' professional unit does not receive and forward the data from the personal agent. Nor, of course, does Maggard or Koenck which are only concerned with a single reader.

Allowance of claims 30-39 and 41-42 is respectfully requested.

~~Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the~~
outstanding Official Action to July 6, 2003. A check in the amount of \$110.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

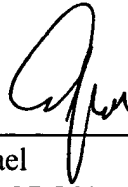
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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

30. (Amended) A method of acquiring data, comprising the steps of:

- a) electro-optically reading a first coded symbol by a first portable reader operated by a user to produce first symbol data;
 - b) electro-optically reading a second coded symbol by a second reader to produce second symbol data;
 - c) transmitting the second symbol data over a wired connection to a host computer for processing the second symbol data;
 - d) transmitting the first symbol data over a wireless connection to the second reader for reception therein; [and]
 - e) receiving the first symbol data over the wireless connection in the second reader; and
 - f) [e)] transmitting the first symbol data received in the second reader over said wired connection from the second reader to the host computer for processing the first symbol data.
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37. (Amended) A system for acquiring data, comprising:

- a) a first portable reader operated by a user for electro-optically reading a first coded symbol to produce first symbol data;
- b) a second reader for electro-optically reading a second coded symbol to produce second symbol data;
- c) a host computer connected to the second reader by a wired connection for transmitting the second symbol data from the second reader to the host computer for processing;

- d) wireless transceivers respectively mounted in the first and second readers for establishing a wireless connection between the readers for transmitting the first symbol data from the first reader over the wireless connection to the second reader for reception therein; and
- e) said wired connection being further operative for transmitting the first symbol data received in the second reader to the host computer for processing.